

## Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /136 W

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R 191705Z SEP 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4018

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AND AEAGG-COC

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS

USELMLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1652

EO11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MOPS, WB. GE, UR

SUBJECT: MEDLEY DETENTION

REF: BERLIN 1623

1. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND), SEPTEMBER 18, CARRIED ON SECOND PAGE FULL ARTICLE ON DETENTION AND RELEASE OF SPECIALIST MEDLEY, BASED ON ADN AND TASS SOURCES. IN ADDITION TO POINTS REPORTED PARA 5, REFTEL, ARTICLE SAID THAT EVIDENCE ASSEMBLED BY COMPETENT AUTHORITIES FULLY PROVED THAT MEDLEY HAD ATTEMPTED TO SMUGGLE OUT TWO GDR CITIZENS, CONFIRMING THEREBY THAT CRIME HAD BEEN COMMITTED UNDER PARAGRAPH 105, SECTION 2, OF GDR CRIMINAL CODE. ACCORDING TO ND ARTICLE, DECISION OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO RELEASE MEDLEY WAS TAKEN IN INTERESTS OF PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL DETENTE, AND WAS BASED ON FACT THAT MEDLEY HAD FULLY CONFESSED HIS GUILT AND  
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WAS REPENTANT. THIS DECISION, HOWEVER, HAD ALSO BEEN

PREDICATED ON ASSUMPTION THAT U.S. "ORGANS" WOULD, ON BASIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE PROVIDED BY SOVIETS, TAKE MEASURES TO PUNISH MEDLEY, CONSIDERING SERIOUSNESS OF "CRIME." ND ARTICLE NOTED THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES, IN PROTESTING TO U.S. MEDLEY'S "CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES," HAD VOICED EXPECTATION THAT U.S. AUTHORITIES WOULD TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO PRECLUDE REPETITION.

2. COMMENT: LENGTH AND PROMINENCE OF ND ARTICLE AND EMPHASIS ON VIOLATION OF GDR LAW SUGGEST THAT EAST GERMANS MAY HAVE CHAFED AT SOVIET ROLE IN CASE AND TOOK PAINS TO SEE TO IT THAT PUBLIC ACCOUNT MADE IT CLEAR THAT GDR CONSULTED THROUGHOUT. AT SAME TIME, ND STORY FRANKLY ACKNOWLEDGES CONTINUING SOVIET RESPONSIBILITY IN EAST BERLIN, NOTING FOR INSTANCE, THAT IT WAS SOVIET MILITARY AUTHORITIES WHO DECIDED TO RETURN MEDLEY; THAT RELEASE WAS EFFECTED BY SOVIET EMBASSY AND MILITARY PERSONNEL; AND THAT IT WAS SOVIETS WHO MADE PROTEST.

3. QUESTIONING OF MEDLEY CONTINUES, IT APPEARS AT THIS JUNCTURE THAT HE WAS ENGAGED IN EXFILTRATION OPERATION ESSENTIALLY AS CHARGED BY SOVIETS. (APPARENTLY HE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY SUCH ACTIVITIES.) HOWEVER, WHETHER MEDLEY FELL INTO CAREFULLY LAID TRAP IS STILL MOOT.

4. USCOB CONCURS.KLEIN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, PRISONER RELEASE, ARRESTS, TRAVEL CONTROLS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, MOPS, WB, GC, UR, (MEDLEY, WILLIAM S)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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